

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-10 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 6-10 are amended. The amendments to the claims introduce no new matter. Claims 4, 5 and 11 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. A Request for Continued Examination is attached. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A Notice of Appeal and Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review ("Request for Review") were filed on October 24, 2007. Applicants respectfully requested review of the Final Rejection mailed July 24, 2007 in view of the arguments set forth in Applicants' October 5, 2007 Request for Reconsideration After Final Rejection ("Request"), and in view of the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action mailed October 19, 2007. The Review was requested specifically to address what Applicants believed was an overly broad construction regarding what the combination of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0184518 to Foster et al. (hereinafter "Foster") and U.S. Patent No. 7,237,243 to Sutton could reasonably be considered to have suggested with regard to the subject matter of the pending claims. Applicants were concerned that detailed arguments set forth in Applicants' April 27, 2007 Amendment and October 5 Request had not been addressed. A Notice of Panel Decision from Pre-Appeal Brief Review ("Notice") was mailed on November 8, 2007. The Notice indicates that the above-identified application is considered to remain under appeal. This Amendment further amends the pending claims in response to the July 24 Final Rejection, and in view of the above.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0184518 to Foster et al. (hereinafter

"Foster") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,237,243 to Sutton. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This Office Action substantially maintains the previous interpretation of the primary reference, Foster, set forth in the January 29, 2007 Office Action. Applicants maintain previously asserted positions that (1) the Office Action unreasonably interprets Foster for what it can be considered to teach, or to have suggested, with respect to the subject matter of the pending claims; (2) Applicants' previous arguments in this regard are not addressed in the current Office Action; (3) the asserted combination of Foster and Sutton is unreasonable; (4) it is unclear how the Office Action actually proposes that the teaching of Foster can be modified by any teaching of Sutton; and (5) the Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case for obviousness of the subject matter of the pending claims over the applied references.

Notwithstanding the above assertions, and in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants amend the claims to varyingly recite, among other features, at least first and second job processors, the first job processor to execute a first job processing in accordance with a first process description defined in instruction data, the second job processor to execute a second job processing, which is a different type of processing from the first processing, in accordance with a second process description defined in the instruction data including the first process description, and the first and second process descriptions defined in the instruction data being encrypted so that the first process description is decryptable for the first job processor and is not decryptable for the second job processor, and so that the second process description is decryptable for the second job processor and is not decryptable for the first job processor. Any permissible combination of Foster and Sutton cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested this combination of features.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Foster in view of Sutton are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 6-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:DAT/cfr

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination

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